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at 9.30 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 3rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ESSY
(President of the General Assembly)

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The meeting was called to order at 9.45 a.m.

ORGANIZATION OF THE FORTY-NINTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ALLOCATION OF ITEMS: MEMORANDUM BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/BUR/49/1 and Add.1) (continued)

Allocation of items (continued)

Item 152

1. The CHAIRMAN reminded members that the Committee had decided at its 2nd meeting to defer its recommendation on the allocation of agenda item 152, "Observer status for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the General Assembly". He invited them to decide on the compromise text of a recommendation agreed upon following informal consultations conducted by the Ambassador of Austria, Mr. Sucharipa.

2. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it should consider item 152 directly in plenary meeting, on the understanding that no further question, beyond items 151 and 152, on the granting of observer status in the General Assembly to applicants other than intergovernmental organizations would be considered until criteria for the granting of such observer status had been established.

Item 92

3. The CHAIRMAN reminded members that in paragraph 53 of his memorandum (A/BUR/49/1) the Secretary-General had recalled resolution 48/166 of 21 December 1993 whereby the Assembly had decided, inter alia, to "hold special plenary meetings at a high level, to consider ways of promoting and giving political impetus to an agenda for development". As indicated in paragraph 45 (d) (i) of the first report of the General Committee (A/49/250), the Committee had decided at its 2nd meeting to defer consideration of the allocation of the item as a whole to a later date. He invited the members to take a decision on the text of a recommendation agreed upon following consultations conducted by the Ambassador of Fiji, Mr. Seniloli.

4. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 92 should be considered in special plenary meetings at a high level pursuant to resolution 48/166 of 21 December 1993, and that subsequent negotiation of the item should take place in the Second Committee.

5. Mr. ROSENSTOCK (United States of America) welcomed the compromise solution worked out by the delegation of Fiji, which was doubtless justified in the light of the very special circumstances of the case. However, the procedure adopted should not be applied in other contexts, as it appeared to require the item to be considered twice in plenary meetings.

Item 89 (d)

6. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to a letter dated 4 October 1994 from the Chairman of the Second Committee to the President of the General Assembly, contained in document A/49/483, informing him that, at its 2nd meeting, the Second Committee had decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the general discussion of sub-item (d) of agenda item 89, entitled "Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa", should be held in a plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the understanding that action would be taken in the Second Committee.

7. That recommendation would require the General Committee to reconsider the allocation of sub-item (d) of agenda item 89 under rule 123 of the rules of procedure. The Assembly would have to take similar action under rule 81 of the rules of procedure.

8. It was so decided.

9. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it should reconsider its recommendation on the allocation of sub-item (d) of agenda item 89 and decide to hold the debate directly in plenary meeting, on the understanding that action on the sub-item would be taken in the Second Committee.

10. Mr. LEGAL (France) expressed surprise at the somewhat unusual and controversial procedure just adopted and its possible implications for the organization of work. Allocation of items was a matter, not for the Committees of the General Assembly, but for the General Committee. The effect of the procedure adopted was to place the agenda of the plenary Assembly in the hands of the Committees. While that procedure had been adopted for legitimate and entirely comprehensible reasons, he hoped that in future, recommendations of that kind would be made only in exceptional cases, and that they would be confined to a strict minimum.

Item 89 (e)

11. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to a letter dated 7 October 1994 from the Chairman of the Second Committee to the President of the General Assembly, contained in document A/49/494, informing him that, at its 3rd meeting, the Second Committee had decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the general discussion of sub-item (e) of agenda item 89, entitled "Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States", should be held in a plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the understanding that action would be taken in the Second Committee.

12. That recommendation would require the General Committee to reconsider the allocation of sub-item (e) of agenda item 89 under rule 123 of the rules of

procedure. The General Assembly would have to take a similar decision under rule 81 of the rules of procedure.

13. It was so decided.

14. The General Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it should reconsider its recommendation on the allocation of sub-item (e) of agenda item 89 and decide to hold the debate directly in plenary meeting, on the understanding that action on the sub-item would be taken in the Second Committee.

Request for the inclusion of an additional sub-item submitted by Afghanistan (A/49/232)

15. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the request by Afghanistan for the inclusion of an additional sub-item entitled "Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan" in the agenda of the current session.

16. The representative of Afghanistan had indicated his desire to address the Committee on the matter in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

17. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Ghafoorzai (Afghanistan) took a place at the Committee table.

18. Mr. GHAFOORZAI (Afghanistan) said that during the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, with the ending of 14 years of war in Afghanistan and the establishment of an Islamic State, the question of the reconstruction of that war-stricken State had been discussed. At the end of the forty-seventh session, the question had been referred to a subsequent session of the General Assembly. In the light of some unfortunate disturbances of security and peace in and around the capital, it had been felt that the title of the item should be modified so as to allow international assistance to be given to Afghanistan to ensure peace and normalcy, and as a result, the question of "Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of the war-stricken Afghanistan" had appeared as item 41 on the agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

19. During its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly had adopted resolution 48/208, which, inter alia, called for the appointment by the Secretary-General of a special mission which was subsequently dispatched to Afghanistan to canvass Afghan opinion on how the United Nations could best facilitate national reconciliation and understanding. The report of that mission was due to be submitted to the General Assembly shortly, probably in mid-November 1994.

20. At the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, it had been decided that all items concerning special economic assistance should be discussed at the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 37. As a result of that decision, the item he was now resubmitting did not appear as a separate

item on the agenda of the forty-ninth session. Although there were many sound reasons for requesting that it should be included as an independent and separate item, his delegation had decided, in the light of the decisions taken by the General Assembly concerning the restructuring of the United Nations, not to insist on that course of action at the present time. However, on the basis of the reasons set forth in the explanatory memorandum contained in document A/49/232, it was requesting the General Committee to permit the discussion of "Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan" as a separate sub-item (e) of item 37.

21. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include the additional sub-item as sub-item (e) of agenda item 37.

22. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the sub-item should be considered directly in plenary meeting.

The meeting rose at 10.10 a.m.